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The Kite Runner

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Post #3

**Summary:** In the next section of The Kite Runner, possibly the most intense part of the story yet, Amir faces many tough decisions where he must decide between saving himself, or his closest friend, Hassan. Hassan and Amir were champions when they were running kites. After their celebratory moments after taking first place, Amir had lost his friend. Nobody was sure of where Hassan was. Amir searched all over for him and eventually found him. Little did he know, Hassan was in a rough situation. Assef, the boy who usually torments and picks on Amir and Hassaan, had cornered Hassaan in a nearby alleyway. Amir was terrified to say anything or step in when the other bullies were picking on Hassaan. They wanted revenge because Hassaan had stood up for Amir at one point when they were picking on him and this did not go over well with Assef. Assef had done the unthinkable, and that is raping poor Hassaan in the alleyway. Hassan was powerless, and he could do nothing for himself while Assef was humiliating him by raping him. The entire time Amir just stood there, frozen. He did not intervene, and he did not save his best friend. Instead, he ran away.

Afterward, Amir felt incredibly guilty for what he had done, or for what he had not done. It ate away at him and made him feel like an awful friend. Hassaan did not speak to Amir that much after what had happened. There was a lot of tension between the two boys. Hassaan went about his normal duties for the household, while Amir tried to grow a stronger relationship with his father. But the relationship between Amir and Hassaan grew distant. When Amir’s father threw a birthday party for him, Assef was there with his family and just grinned the entire time at Amir. Amir had not shown any respect towards Assef after what he knew what he had done to his best friend.

**Analysis:** This part of the book was hard to read because of the dramatics of it all. I was very disappointed with some of the characters, mainly Amir, for what he had done to his friend. After all the times that Hassaan had stood up for Amir and he couldn’t even send help for him. Honestly, nobody knows for sure what they would have done if they were in his situation, but I think he could have done a lot more to help him out. I also didn’t like how the relationship between the two boys changed. It is hard reading about two boys were at one point so close, but became so distant towards one another. They used to do everything together, and now they barely speak a word to each other. I think that this part of the story was overwhelming to me because it was unexpected. I was not expecting something so violent to happen to Hassaan. It helped me get in touch with my emotional side a bit.

**Application:** I think that this part of the story is an accurate portrayal of human instincts. For example, even though to us it may seem as though we would have done different than what Amir had done, we still do not know for sure what our human behavior would be like if we were put into the same situation that Amir was put in. It’s something that I learned in psychology that I related to this essential question. Basically, we can think about what our reactions would be like, but we never really know what they would be like unless we experience it. It is just basic human nature to do this because we all do it. That is how I related this major part of the reading to the essential question.